

Ms. B. 6 *N. 797*
An Account
OF THE
TRANSLATION
OF THE
B I B L E

INTO THE
LITHUANIAN TONGUE,
Into which LANGUAGE the SCRIPTURES
were as yet never Translated:

WITH A
Copy of the Testimoniall
Given to the
TRANSLATOR,

And of the Approbation of his undertaking, by
several Reverend Doctors of Divinity, with
the Professors of the same, and other
Persons of Note, in the

UNIVERSITY of OXFORD,
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*The Translator wisheth all health and happinesse
to the Christian Reader.*



Here is none, I presume, of those *who love the Lord Iesus Christ in sincerity*, but will account that a good service done to Religion, and an acceptable work unto the Church of God, of those who imploy their whole studies and endeavours *for saving the soules of men*, and for the propagating of the true worship of God in all places throughout the world: Since that it is our duty not onely to have regard of our selves, but we ought likewise, so farre as we are able, to endeavour the salvation of others also, and to be industrious in the promoting of it. *He that doth the worke of the Lord deceitfully, or having put his hand to the plough, doth through slothfulnesse draw it backe againe, is pronounced accursed*: But a crowne of eternall glory is laid up for those who have kept the faith, have brought sinners unto righteousness, and accomplished their course with cheerfulness. It is not ease or idleness, but industry and labour, is the portion of those who desire to do service in the Church of God; difficulties & dangers they must expect to meet with, the crosse also, & many grievous things to be undergone, the weight whereof without the assistance of the holy spirit were insupportable. Of this Moses *that faithfull servant in the house of God*, had much experience, when with many signes and woundes he brought the Children of Israel out of the bondage of Egypt, and did in the wilderness deli-

that people to be observed the law of God published for that end on mount Sinai. He found the like in preparing and erecting the *Tabernacle*, the draught whereof he received from God himselfe, for notwithstanding the large contribution of materials to the worke, yet was there need also, that *Bezaleel* and *Aholiab* the workmen of it should be furnished by God himselfe, with a spirit of wisdom and skill, to prepare it, and the severall sorts of vessels belonging to it; whereby God, the most wise Architect of the whole Universe, would make knowne to us, that to the doing of Gods worke, the spirit and help of God is mainly necessary, which is not in the power of man to confer, but proceeds alone from the *Father of lights*. 'Twas the worke of God to put into *Solomons* heart a spirit of wisdom, which made him surpass the wisest of men; and to stir him up with cherefullnesse and resolution, to undertake and accomplish the building of that famous *Temple at Jerusalem*: as also to incline the heart of *Hiram King of Tyre*, to supply wood and stones for that magnificent structure, and fit workmen for the imployment; who were by God also enabled to perform the worke. The same Spirit of God it was, that put it into the heart of *Cyrus King of Persia*, to afford to the people of God then in captivity, a safe returne to their owne land. 'Tis God also that put courage into *Zerubbabel* and *Joshua*, and a spirit of alacrity into the people, to set to their whole strength for rebuilding the *Temple*, and not be dismayed by difficulties or dangers, and their Enemies stratagems. And 'twas God that over ruled the spirit of *Darius a heathen King*, and made him by a publike edict give order to the neighbouring people, to forbear demolishing the work once begun, which by divers subtilties and artifices they were endeavouring to do. Nor was it lesse a worke of the same spirit of God, which stirred up the holy *Prophets of old*, who made it their businesse to extirpate the false worship of feigned deities, and bring the people under their charge to the true worship of God; nor would suffer themselves by the many threatenings of an ungratefull world, or the many hazards that did attend the service, to be deterred from it.

To these succeeded Christs holy Apostles; who, notwithstanding they were looked upon as the *off-scouring of the world*

and as *sheep appointed to the slaughter*; though what they preached were to *the Jewes a stumbling-blocke*, and to *the Greeks foolishnesse*; though exposed to the hatred and injuries of the world which they did undergo; yet could not be drawn off from the love of *Christ*, whose Church, by their ministry, was greatly enlarged, both amongst *Jewes*, and *Gentiles*. And after them, the *Orthodox Fathers* of the Primitive Church; who faithfully transmitting to the Church the word of God, detecting hypocrites and stopping the mouthes of hereticks, were eminently serviceable to *Christ the Prince of Glory*: To whom I must adde also those faithfull labourers in the Lords vineyard in these latter ages; furnished with his spirit, and taught of God; who arming themselves with *Religions buckler*, have fought manfully in the cause of God against *Sathan* and *Antichrist*, have vindicated the light of truth from out of darknesse, have restored the learned languages and the liberall arts and sciences to their pristine splendour, nor spare any paines for the propagating of truth: To say nothing of those many others whose names are yet flourishing, who at this day by their learned writings, and good name, both at home and abroad, improve that light transmitted to them; whose modesty forbids to name them. To conclude, what ever at any time, by the holy men of God, *in matter of Religion and Gods worship*, hath been prudently managed or successfully accomplished, 'tis all to be ascribed to divine providence. Nor can I beleieve, that it is without this secret and wise disposall of the divine Majesty, that my selfe, the meanest of those who minister to *Christ* or serve under him, and no wayes comparable with others; have been inabled in these last times, when *the day of the consummation of all things* is at hand, (many signes whereof we have already seen, and many more dayly discovering themselves both in heaven and in earth, so that scarce any of them remaine as yet unaccomplished, save that onely, foretold by *Christ Math. 24.* of preaching the Gospell throughout the world, *a testimony to all nations, and then shall the end be,*) willingly to begin, constantly to persevere in, and happily to consummate, a worke of vast labour, (namly) the TRANSLATION of the BIBLE, into the LI-

For having long ago considered that severall pious and learned men, since the yeare of our Lord 1387. (at which time *Lithuania* received the Christian faith, by meanes of that most religious King *Fagello*,) have hitherto in vaine expected, that some body would haue been raised up by God, to translate the *Holy Scriptures* into that tongue, (which not only in those large Territories but also in the neighbouring Countries of *Livonia*, *Curlandia*, *Russia*, *Prussia*, and in the borders of *Moscovy*, it selfe is commonly used,) I thought it my duty (having dedicated my selfe to the service of the Church from my youth) to furnish my selfe with such abilities, whereby I might be advantagious to it: Wherefore imploring the assistance and direction of Christ, (*through whome we can do all things*,) that a work so acceptable and signally conducing to the edification of the Church of God, may continue no longer unattempted, or be put off till the coming of *Elias*, or our *Saviour Christ*, I have adventured upon it, and my aime is not only now by this Translation (with the summe and contents of all the *Historicall*, *Dogmaticall*, *Propheticall* bookes, of the *Gospels*, *Epistles* and *Chapters*,) to be helpfull to those people, who have hitherto been destitute of bookes in that language for the furtherance of the practice of piety, saue only the *Lords prayer*, the *Apostles Creed*, the *Ten Commandements*, some few *Catechetical tracts*, fragments of *Gospels* and *Epistles*, and a late Booke in Quirto, set out in the yeare 1653. (containing only seventy eight of *Dauids Psalmes*, some *Hymnes* composed by *Luther* and others, the *Gospels* for the *Lords dayes*, with a short analysis, the *History of Christs passion*, and a *Catechisme* for the younger:) but also for their fuller knowledge of the articles of Christian religion, by faithfully translating out of the English Tongue, the *Confession of faith*, the *Larger and Lesser Catechisme*, framed by the Assembly of Divines, convened by the Authority of the Parliament of England, to whom being afterwards exhibited, they were examined and approved by them, as also by the Churches of Scotland: I have a purpose shortly also by Gods assistance, to turne the booke of *Psalmes*, into meeter, according to that melody, that is now in use in the Churches of this happy Island, which is easy to be learned by ordinary persons; for having skill but in

three tunes, they may be able to sing all the Psalmes, whereas contrariwise in the *French Psalter* (otherwise very excellent,) according to which almost all the Protestant Churches in Europe, have theirs composed, it comes to passe, by reason of the difficulty of the tunes, and unskilfullnes in singing, that only some of the easier Psalmes are wont to be sung, even in the publike Assemblies. It were to be wished, that others also in their generation, after the same manner, would endeavour, to roll away, that reproach, from the Israel of God: likewise they would do a thing very pleasing, both to God and good men, if they would compile *Notes on the Bible*, out of the most learned *English and Dutch Annotations*, (of which sort nothing hath as yet been done in severall nations) or meerly by their joynt labor translate both of them, especially in this age, wherein Antichrist attempts an universall apostasie from the truth.

For it is meet, that they who debarre the faithful of the free use of the Scriptures that principle of Christian faith, allowing the reading thereof to none, but *Austins, Ambroses* and *Chrysostoms*, should know that not one, or two alone, but many among the orthodox professors do watch for the soules of the godly, especially seeing the papists boast so much of their number. Every builder of the new Babylon hath wherewithall to defend the apostasie of Rome, and to maintaine the servitude and tyranny of the Doctrine of the pope, the cheife bulwark and *Helena* of their divinity; let Christ also have such meanes through the industry of his servants, who succeed in their room, whom continual labour, the burden of mens unthankfullnes, and the tyranny of their enemies hath broken and enervated; by which, not only those who are already in the Lords sheep-fold may be guarded, but also that a watch tower may be erected for such who are without it, by the light of which they may be brought into the haven of salvation, from the stormes of errors and idolatry, whereby they are miserably tossed to the present hazard of their soules. This being the ground of my undertaking, God grant, that by it I may see, some at least, if not all, in my owne nation converted from the darknesse of humane traditions, to the true Gospell worship, and that God would keep and continue others in the heavenly truth

by the help of these labors, which I heartily wish, nothing doubting, that his divine favour who hath stirred up my heart in the carrying on of this work will not here leave me, but raise up some religious Patrons, who will judge it unfit to suffer so Christian a work to remaine unpublished, considering how laudable and worthy a thing it is for pious men, out of the love of the truth, and a desire of the increase of Christs Kingdome in this world, to use all endeavours that the Church and true religion may take roote and bring forth abundant fruits in forreigne nations also. And surely; if in times of the Olde Testament, the building of the materiall Temple was pleasing to God, how much more acceptable shall we think the building of his spirituall house, *whose corner Stone is Christ, on whome believers are built as living stones*, will be to him. The memory of those that framed the *Tabernacle* is blessed, and their names also who are wont to put their helping hands to such pious workes, shall not only, as others, be written in heaven, but they also shall be made pillars in the house of God, and Christ shall write on them *the name of his God, and the name of the City of his God, that is new Jerusalem, which descendeth from God out of heaven and his new name*, to whome with the Father and the Holy Ghost be all honour and glory for ever. Amen.



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A Copy of the Testimonial given to the Translator, and of the approbation of his undertaking, by several Reverend Doctors of Divinity, with the Professors of the same, and other Persons of Note, in the University of Oxford.



These are to certify any whom it may concern, That Mr. *Samuel Boguslaus Chylinski*, a *Lithuanian*, and a Member of the Protestant Churches of that Countrey, being imployed by the Authority of their Synods there, and at their charges, into these parts for his better accomplishment, to be afterwards serviceable to those Churches; and to that purpose, specially recommended by them to the *Belgick Churches and Universities*, and from thence hither (as appears to us, as well from the sight of Letters Testimonial to that purpose, as by other credible informations,) but by reason of the late Wars in *Poland* (whereby those Churches are in a manner wholly destroyed) being left destitute of supplies from those that sent him, either for his subsistence here, or return home, hath been supported here (for the space of two whole years, and upwards) meerly by the charity of such persons amongst us, as upon commiseration of his condition, have been willing voluntarily to contribute toward the relief of him, and some others in like distress. We do also testify, that, upon some special acquaintance with him, we do judge him to be a serious

and godly person, deserving all good encouragement. And whereas, during the time of his abode here, he hath employed himself in Translating the whole Bible into the *Lithuanian* Tongue (into which Language the Scriptures were as yet never Translated) and hath now accomplished that work: We do hereby declare, That we judge the undertaking very considerable, in reference to the propagation of the Gospel in that large Countrey, as also in several other adjacent parts where this Tongue is vulgarly spoken. And moreover, upon our best inquiry into the matter (so far as we are able to judge) we conceive the work to have been managed with much diligence and faithfulness: So as we cannot but recommend the publication of it, as a thing very worthy of their furtherance, unto whom God hath given hearts and estates to promote the enlargement of the Kingdom of Christ.

John Conant. Vic. Can. John Owen.

Tho: Goodwin.

Henr: Wilkinson, Chr. Ch.

Seth Ward.

Robert Say.

Edmund Staunton.

Henr: Langley.

Th: Owen.

Christopher Rogers.

John Wallis.

Hen: Savage.

Thomas Barlow.

Francis Johnson.

Hen: Hickman.



F I N I S.



